

MEMPHIS APPEAL

WEDNESDAY MORNING, MAR. 3, 1875.

FILLUSTERING.

For two weeks congress has been filibustering, and is likely to continue in this business until the close of the session to-morrow night. Whenever a question comes up, filibustering is resorted to, and each opponent becomes a filibuster, and is proud of the appellation, not seeming to know that the word means a plunderer, a freebooter, a pirate. It is time that an end should be put to all such tomfoolery. Millions of dollars of the people's money have been spent by congress in the small business of filibustering. Every legislative body should devote means by which to rid itself of this great nuisance. Filibustering often has the effect of wrecking a great number of bills of paramount importance, which had occupied much time, and which were ready for a final and unananimous passage. The business of a legislative body should not be obstructed by artifice or contrivance. Members of congress should fight monstrous and infamous schemes by all honest means; but filibustering is a long stride in the direction of anarchy. It is not a new step in legislation, but the end of all legislation. That the opponents of a measure may delay its passage, and thus prevent the passage of other indispensable measures by strategy, is a monstrous proposition, and an attempt to subvert all legislation and government. It matters not what the ground of objection is. The idea that the integrity of the measure justifies the means for its prevention is ridiculous. The question of constitutionality is the ground of opposition to a large portion of the measures which come before every legislative body. Besides there is an established tribunal beyond the state legislature or congress, to which the constitution assigns appeals from the decisions of legislative bodies. The judiciary has alone the power, superior to a majority, to determine questions of constitutionality. This filibustering business is revolutionary, and unless terminated will result in preventing legislation, which is nothing but anarchy. The measures which have recently been passed in congress, even were unconstitutional, are insignificant by the side of acts which disregard not only the constitution, but strike at the foundation of all government. The majority of a legislative body should rule, and its voice should not be stifled by the filibustering of the minority. Filibustering is a simple thing like the traitor is despised, and upon the same principle many would like to see the infamous legacies of dying Radical hate defeated by filibustering; but no friend of law, order and decent legislation can admire the means by which the object was attained.

THE PROPOSED EXEMPTION.

On Monday last a petition was presented in the lower branch of the Tennessee legislature, asking exemption from taxation for ten years of capital invested in manufacturing. If we are not mistaken, our able and efficient representative, J. A. Koush, has already favored a bill granting the prayer of the petition from Montgomery county. The APPEAL has therefore discussed this question of exemption, and will continue to urge its adoption so long as it is before the legislature. The only objection urged to the passage of a law exempting capital invested in manufacturing is that it would be unconstitutional because of its class legislation. We cannot believe that the constitution of Tennessee is such a bungling and destructive instrument as to fetter the enterprise and industry of the State, and thus prevent the development of the great natural resources which, with the advent of capital and skilled labor, would become useful elements. The constitution was framed with a view to stimulate enterprise, and to encourage the manufacturing industry in the northwestern corner of the state. It is certainly nothing in that instrument which prohibits or restricts the legislature from making laws of universal application in every county in the State. There can be no class legislation where all interests are consulted, promoted and protected by the operation of a general public law. We can see no class legislation in a law which, by fostering manufacturing, diversifies labor, secures capital, and promotes the great material interests of the people of the State. There is nothing in the constitution of Tennessee that hinders and impedes the great interests it was formed to protect and promote. If the capital invested in factories might be exempted from the charge of class legislation. But the farmer, the mechanic, the merchant, the lawyer, and indeed every profession, class and interest, would be benefited by the introduction of capital to be invested in manufacturing establishments of every conceivable description. England owes her prosperity to the wise policy of fostering and encouraging her manufacturing industries, and her New England, with its inhospitable climate and sterile hills, is wealthy, populous and prosperous, by engaging in manufacturing and selling to the people of Tennessee, and other southern States, the very goods they should make themselves. We have no capital of our own. We need not and cannot get it unless we offer inducements to capitalists to invest abroad. Exempt capital invested in manufacturing for ten years, and we will induce foreign capital to seek investment in our midst. We cannot exaggerate the value of manufacturing in increasing the wealth and population of a community. Every man of sense sees the folly of raising cotton, shipping it to the north, paying commission, freight and other expenses incidental to the exportation of the raw material and the importation of the manufactured goods. In discussing the necessity of manufacturing establishments in the south it has been shown through the columns of the APPEAL and other papers that "one million dollars invested in manufacturing will do more for the increase of population and the acquisition of wealth than ten millions in merchandise. The business of merchandise employs only a small number of men in proportion to capital, while manufacturing requires a great number. In the matter of buying and selling, the gains in the transactions are only increased, and in cases of dealing with imported goods, as our merchants do almost exclusively, the first goes abroad to enrich the direct importer and manufacturer, carrying away forever a certain amount of capital, and leaving behind only a small profit in the hands of the home merchant. In manufacturing, the reverse of this proposition is true. We get back the principal, and pay out, as it were, interest, in the shape of commissions and gains to agents who sell and mer-

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